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The plates, of which there are sixty-nine, consist of the woodcuts of Cooke's "Handbook" arranged upon the pages. Not more than a dozen or so of these plates have any connection with the text, and they are consequently of no sort of value. Evidently the publisher had these on hand, and put them in to fill up. They add thickness to the book, and doubtless add also to its cost.—*Charles E. Bessey.*

Colton's *Elementary Course of Practical Zoology*.<sup>1</sup>—This work is truly an elementary one,—not a text-book, but a series of guides to the study of certain typical animals, with the aim of giving the student, by following the directions given, such a practical acquaintance with comparative anatomy as will enable him to obtain a clear idea of the animal kingdom. Classification of the objects chosen is not attempted, for the much alike grasshopper and cricket commence the work, and are followed by examples of the other hexapod orders. Then come studies of the spider, millipede, and various Crustacea, to which succeed the earth-worm, clam, and snail. The Infusoria and Amœba come after these, and then the author proceeds to the fish, the frog, the snake, the turtle, and the mammal, which are succeeded by the echinoderms, coelenterates, and sponges. This arrangement seems to have been carefully considered in the adaptation of the work to the needs of those who will most use it,—students in academies and high schools,—and here this has a marked advantage over those laboratory manuals which follow a cut-and-dried system. By first examining closely-allied forms they are led to comparative work, while the order of the subjects is such as to accommodate the increasing skill of the pupil in manipulation. The work is really a valuable one for beginners in zoology, and deserves the success with which we understand it is meeting.

Lydekker's *Catalogue of Fossil Mammalia*.<sup>2</sup>—Mr. Richard Lydekker, formerly of India, has recently followed up his extensive series of papers upon the fossil fauna of Hindustan by a valuable catalogue of the Fossil Mammalia of the British Museum of Natural History. The portion of the catalogue issued comprises four volumes of the usual size of the British Museum series, with rather more than one thousand pages and one hundred and thirty-four illustrations. Part I. contains the Primates, Chiroptera, Insectivora, Carnivora, and Rodentia. Part II. the Ungulata Artiodactyla. Part III. the Ungulata Perissodactyla, Toxodontia, Condylarthra, and Amblypoda, while Part IV. is entirely occupied by the Proboscidea. The classification is based

<sup>1</sup> An Elementary Course in Practical Zoology. By Buel P. Colton. Boston, D. C. Heath & Co., 1886.

<sup>2</sup> Catalogue of the Fossil Mammalia in the British Museum (Natural History). Part I. By Richard Lydekker, B.A.F.G.S., etc. London, 8vo. 1885. Printed by order of the Trustees Brit. Mus.

upon that adopted by Professor Flower, but is modified to make it include the host of extinct forms here dealt with. In his preface the author avows himself one of that school of naturalists who use generic terms in a wider sense. The Pikermi and Mont Leberon beds are classed as Pliocene, the Eppelsheim beds as uppermost Miocene; the Ronzon and Hempstead (Isle of Wight) beds as lowest Miocene (the latter with a query); the Quercy phosphorites form the top of the Eocene, while the Egerkingen beds of Switzerland are placed at the bottom of the Upper Eocene. Among the peculiarities of classification is the inclusion of the dogs as a subfamily (Caninæ) of the Ursidæ. The Proboscidea include three species of *Dinotherium*, twenty-six of *Mastodon*, and eighteen of *Elephas*.

**Report of the U. S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, 1883.**—This report contains twelve hundred pages of valuable matter and numerous illustrations, among which may be especially mentioned the eleven plates of Cetaceans, which illustrate Mr. True's suggestions to lighthouse-keepers and others relative to collecting examples of these animals. The report proper occupies only ninety-five pages, including a statement of the results of the inquiry into the history and statistics of food-fishes and an account of the progress of pisciculture. In the appendices we find papers by Stone, Tanner, Smiley, Duff, Day, Ljungman, Lundberg, Verrill, Bush, Eisen, Shufeldt, Seal, Mather, Benecke, etc. The most voluminous appendix is that relating to natural history and biological research. Nearly two hundred pages of this are occupied by Professor Verrill's account of the results of the explorations made by the "Albatross" in 1883. Lieutenant Tanner devotes a still larger space in Appendix A to the construction and outfit of the "Albatross," and a report upon the work done during the cruise of 1883. The "Albatross" reports are profusely illustrated.

Gustav Eisen's "Oligochætological Researches" and Dr. Shufeldt's "Osteology of *Amia calva*" are valuable special papers.

**Biographical Memoirs of the National Academy of Science, Vol. II.**—This volume contains fifteen biographies of deceased members of the National Academy, including the well-known names of Louis Agassiz, Jeffries Wyman, J. P. Kirtland, J. L. Le Conte, A. Guyot, and J. W. Draper.

#### RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

*Maiden, J. H.*—Report of the Australian Museum. N. S. W., 1885.

*Nehring.*—Ueber die Abstammung unserer Hausthiere, mit besonderer Berücksichtigung von Hund, Schwein und Pferd. March, 1885.—Ueber einen in die Gefangenschaft gezüchteten täckel-beinigen Hasen. SB. Ges. Nat. Freunde. Berlin, 1886. Both from the author.